

From RGA

Investigation into current U.S. Attorney:

* What we know:

* Ralph Marra, the top federal prosecutor in New Jersey, is facing an internal ethics investigation over public comments that may have helped his Christie's campaign for governor, law enforcement officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

* At issue are comments Marra made at a news conference last month announcing the arrests of 44 people as part of a sweeping federal corruption probe. Of those arrested, 29 were elected or public officials.

* Asked about the issue of corruption in the state, Marra said: "There are easily reforms that could be made within this state that would make our job easier, or even take some of the load off our job. There are too many people that profit off the system the way it is and so they have no incentive to change it. The few people that want to change it seem to get shouted down. So how long that cycle's going to continue I just don't know."

* Greg Reinert, a spokesman for Marra's office, said they were unaware of such an investigation and declined to comment. Officials with the Corzine and Christie campaigns also had no comment.

* Such internal investigations are rarely acknowledged publicly, and the results are usually unknown. Justice Department spokeswoman Tracy Schmalzer declined to comment or even confirm the existence of the probe in New Jersey.

* We can't comment on an investigation we know nothing about, but it is highly unlikely that those comment will have any impact on the governor's race.

Recent Events:

- * Will the revelations about Karl Rove and Michele Brown damage Christie's election prospects?

- * The voters in New Jersey are concerned about their high property taxes and rising unemployment - issues Corzine does not want to talk about because he has failed miserably on these issues as governor.

- * He raised the sales tax in his very first budget and after promising to reduce New Jersey's property tax rate, the state still has the highest property taxes in the nation and he eliminated property tax rebates for middle class homeowners.

- * New Jersey has one of the worst business climates in the nation and unemployment has nearly doubled since Corzine took office.

- * The state faces a \$10 billion deficit again next year.

- * The truth is that before Christie started running for Governor, Corzine was one of his biggest supporters. And Christie earned bipartisan praise for successfully prosecuting more than 130 public officials without a loss.

- * Voters will see through these attacks and base their vote on who they trust to reduce property taxes, reform the budget, and grow the economy. They already know that Corzine has failed in all these areas.

- * Corzine has his own ethics issue.

- * Most recently: His own cabinet member had his home raided by the FBI and Corzine has not explained why he reappointed Michael Madonna in 2007 to the Waterfront Commission, which was supposed to be a watchdog that eliminated corruption from the New York harbor, but actually fostered corruption.

* Will Carla Katz (Corzine's ex-girlfriend and a former president of the local CWA who Corzine reached a financial settlement with after the relationship ended) be an issue in the race?

* We never discuss or preview our campaign strategy but I can tell you this:

* All our efforts so far have highlighted Jon Corzine's broken promises and dishonesty as governor. After watching him raise the sales tax in his very first budget, hike taxes by another \$1 billion this year while eliminating property tax rebates for middle class homeowners, and preside over record unemployment, voters know they can't trust Jon Corzine or believe anything he says. They also know that tax hikes and job losses are just a small sample of Corzine's failures as governor. Our job is to make sure New Jerseyans know and remember Corzine's record as governor on the issues that matter. Right now those issues are taxes and jobs, but Corzine knows he can't defend his record on these issues so he's doing everything he can to distract and mislead the voters. Ultimately, that strategy will backfire.

* What impact will independent candidate Chris Daggett have on the race (currently polling in the mid to high single digits)?

* It's a little early to say for sure, but he will likely take some votes from each candidate. Corzine is obviously concerned about him based on the comments he made after the Sierra Club endorsed Daggett: "If it ends up drawing the race to my major opponent, I think they're going to be very unhappy with what the outcome is," he said.

General Talking Points:

How significant is this race to the Republican Party?

* From a political committee perspective, this is one of thirty-nine governors' races that are going to place over the next two years. Our goals is to win back a majority of governorships for our Party and one race doesn't determine whether or not we are successful. So from our perspective this

race is only slightly more significant than the governors' races we are going to have next year in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and 35 other states.

- * But look, I'd be lying if I didn't recognize that a lot of folks in the media are looking at this race and the race in Virginia for signs of relevance from the Republican Party.

- * We understand why the media wants to that, but we aren't going to get caught up in that trap.

- * We know this race is going to come down to state issues and how voters think Jon Corzine has performed as governor.

- * With those issues on table, we are optimistic at our chances to win.

- * This race is most significant for New Jersey, the national politics of it doesn't matter and will have no impact.

Jon Corzine is saying he is managing the state budget better than anyone one else could and frankly the recession was brought on by George Bush and the Republicans:

- * Jon Corzine is blaming everyone else because he knows there is absolutely no way to defend his own record.

- * Quite frankly, he campaigned on a set of issues and then once he got in office did exactly the opposite.

- * He said New Jersey can't tax, borrow, and spend, but that's exactly what he's doing.

- * He raised taxes by \$1 billion this year, and he raised taxes by nearly \$1.9 billion in his first budget.

- * That first tax hike proves what Jon Corzine is really all about. There is no excuse for someone who campaigned as a financial wizard to have to hike taxes significantly twice in four years. I don't think any other governor in the country has done that to the same extent as Jon Corzine.

What about Corzine's attempts to link Chris Christie to George Bush and John Ashcroft?

- * Four years ago, before Chris Christie became his opponent in the governor's race, Jon Corzine had nothing but praise for the job Chris Christie was doing as a federal prosecutor.

- * In fact on June 10th, 2005 Corzine said, "I was an endorser and supporter of Chris Christie as U.S Attorney to clean up corruption. I am going to continue to be."

- * And in November of 2005, Corzine said "There have been as many Republicans as there are Democrats that have been brought to justice by Chris Christie which I think that he's doing a great job."

- * His office racked up an astonishing record - winning convictions or guilty pleas from over 130 public officials - both Republican and Democrat - without losing a single case.

- * So Jon Corzine attacking Christie for being a successful U.S. attorney is really just a sign of how desperate Corzine is. During the summer, incumbents who have a record they can run on typically run ads touting that record. The fact that Corzine has already gone negative proves that even he knows New Jersey citizens don't like his record.

How much will Obama help Corzine?

- * Voters are smart enough to differentiate between liking Obama personally and disliking what Corzine has done as governor.

- * In fact, we did a poll that found that 71 percent of voters said Obama campaigning for Corzine would make no difference in who they would vote for. 18 percent said it'd make them less likely to vote for Corzine and just 8 percent said it would make them more likely to vote for Corzine.

What makes Christie qualified to manage the state/grow the economy?

- * Look, Jon Corzine said his Wall Street experience would help him fix the state budget and grow jobs. But that simply hasn't been the case. Unemployment is up has nearly doubled since he became governor and he has raised taxes repeatedly.

- * Chris Christie has always risen to the challenge and has proven he is willing and able to make the type of tough decisions that governors need to make.

- * Winning 130 convictions of public officials without a loss doesn't happen by accident. It takes someone who plans carefully, manages his team, and then goes out and executes.

Talking points on Chris Christie's ideas:

Highlights from Chris' plan to cut our taxes:

- * Provide Property Tax Relief
- * Reduce New Jersey's Income Tax
 - * Across the board cut for all taxpayers
 - * Additional cut or credit for NJ-based small businesses
- * Reduce the Corporate Business Tax Rate
- * Eliminate the double taxation on New Jersey's S-Corporations

Highlights from the plan to make every dollar count:

- * Prioritize the state's funding commitments
- * Establishing and empowering fiscal watchdogs
- * Implement simple, responsible budget practices

Make New Jersey a magnet for renewable energy manufacturers:

- * Incentivize Energy Manufacturing with Tax Credits
- * New Jersey Will Create Higher-Paying Clean Energy Production

Jobs in the Next Four Years

- * Install Solar Farms on Every Landfill
- * Encourage Solar Farms by Making it a Permitted Land Use
- * New Jersey Farmland Isn't Just for Agriculture